

## Sheahan Comment and WDFW Response on Welts Property Restoration

Mr. and Ms. Sheahan,

Thank you for submitting your comments regarding the proposed Samish River Unit (Welts) Wetland Restoration Project.

I understand that you are concerned that the parking area is located where an accident has occurred in the past. The intent of the parking area is to improve safety for the public. Currently, we understand users of the site park on the road shoulder. Providing a parking area as an alternative to parking on the road shoulder is intended to be safer.

I understand that you are concerned that implementation of the proposed project will cause flood water to damage your property and hinder access. The project is designed to not cause negative flooding impacts to surrounding properties. Removal of drain tiles and construction of swales will cause surface water to be present on site more frequently, but will not affect the volume of water or the drainage conveyance of the ditches that currently drain the site.

I understand you are concerned that this project is not a responsible use of funds. This project is funded by the Wetland Reserve Program that is administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) of the United States Department of Agriculture. A set portion of the Farm Bill is dedicated to fund the Wetland Reserve Program. NRCS enrolls properties and funds projects that fit criteria of the Wetland Reserve Program with dedicated funds for the program. This project was chosen by NRCS to be funded as part of the Wetland Reserve Program.

Thank you for your comments, and please contact me if you have any additional questions.

Loren

Loren Brokaw  
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-----Original Message-----

From: Judy Sheahan [<mailto:tomjudysheahan@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Wednesday, November 06, 2013 9:21 PM  
To: SEPADesk2 (DFW)  
Cc: Judy Sheahan  
Subject: Weltz property

RE: Weltz project (Skagit County parcels P33820, P120961, P33817, P33842)

We are property owners within 100 feet of the property known as Weltz.

We have several concerns regarding your proposal but we will only address three.

- 1) Your proposed parking lot access is located where the most recent fatal accident occurred.
- 2) During the 2006 flood the entire Weltz property was submerged in water. The proposed plan will redirect the flood water and cause damage to our property as well as hinder our access.
- 3) I believe with the Federal government sequester, the \$378,000 proposed for this project could be spent in a better way.

The citizens were miss-led when the property was purchased by the State. We were told it was to be used as a rest stop for migrating birds and would be kept in a natural state.

Tom and Judy Sheahan  
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